

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:
 - a card slot through which a magnetic card is inserted;
 - a card transferring means which takes in said magnetic card
 - 5 inserted from said card slot; and
 - a temporary suspension means which suspends operation of taking said magnetic card by said card transferring means when the back end of said magnetic card projects out from said card slot.

2. A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:
 - a card slot through which a magnetic card is inserted;
 - a card transferring means which takes in said magnetic card
 - inserted from said card slot; and
 - a reverse direction transferring means which, when the back end
 - 5 of said magnetic card projects out from said card slot, temporarily suspends operation of taking in said magnetic card by said card transferring means and which temporarily transfers said magnetic card in the reverse direction.

3. A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:
 - a card slot through which a magnetic card is ejected;
 - a card transferring means which ejects said magnetic card from
 - said card slot; and
 - 5 a temporary suspension means which suspends operation of ejecting said magnetic card by said card transferring means when said magnetic card is ejected from said card slot by a given amount.

4. A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:

a card slot through which a magnetic card is ejected;

a card transferring means which ejects said magnetic card
inserted from said card slot; and

5 a reverse direction transferring means which, when said magnetic
card is ejected from said card slot by a given amount, temporarily suspends
operation of ejecting said magnetic card by said card transferring means and
which temporarily transfers said magnetic card in the reverse direction.

5. A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:

a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;

a detecting means which detects that said magnetic card is
inserted from said card slot;

5 a card transferring means which takes in said magnetic card;

a shutter means which opens or closes a card guiding path
guiding said magnetic card inserted from said card slot to said card transferring
means; and

10 a control means which controls said shutter means to open said
card guiding path when said detecting means detects that said magnetic card is
inserted and which drives said card transferring means to transfer said magnetic
card a given period of time after said card guiding path is opened.

6. A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:
a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;
a card insertion detecting means which detects that said magnetic
card is inserted from said card slot;
5 a card transferring means which takes in said magnetic card;
a shutter means which opens or closes a card guiding path
guiding said magnetic card inserted from said card slot to said card transferring
means;
a detecting means which detects that said magnetic card inserted
10 from said card slot comes in contact with said shutter means; and
a shutter controlling means which opens said guiding path by
driving said shutter means after said detecting means detects that said magnetic
card comes in contact with said shutter means.

7. The method of defeating the illegal reading of a magnetic card at the
point of insertion of the card through a card slot into a card
reader having transport means to move the card past a read head at a constant
predetermined rate comprising the steps of:

5 detecting the position of the card in the card reader at a
predetermined point where the card is not being read by the read head and where
a portion of the card extends outside of the card reader through the card slot, and
for a predetermined time period, substantially changing the
predetermined rate at which the card moves in the card reader .

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said step of changing the
predetermined rate at which the card moves constitutes stopping movement of the
card for said predetermined time.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said steps of detecting
and substantially changing are taken when the card is being inserted into the card
reader and also when the card is being expelled from the card reader.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of changing the predetermined rate at which the card moves constitutes stopping movement of the card for said predetermined time.

11. The method of claim 7 in which said predetermined time period is under 500 milliseconds.

12. The method of claim 8 in which said predetermined time period is under 500 milliseconds.

13. The method of claim 9 in which said predetermined time period is under 500 milliseconds.

14. In a magnetic card reader having a card slot for accepting a magnetic card, a read head and transport means for moving a card to be read past the read head at a constant predetermined rate, the improvement to defeat illegal reading of a card comprising:

5 a sensor to provide a control signal indicating a predetermined position of a magnetic card inserted through the card slot into the card reader, said predetermined position being where the card is not being read by the read head and where a portion of the card extends out of the card slot, and

10 a drive circuit responsive to said control signal to substantially change for a predetermined time period the constant predetermined rate at which the card is being transported through the card reader.

15. The improvement of claim 14 wherein said change of the predetermined rate constitutes stopping movement of the card for said predetermined time period.

16. The improvement of claim 14 wherein said sensor provides said control signal when the card is being inserted into the card reader and also when the card is being expelled from the card reader,

said drive circuit being responsive to said control signal in
5 both insertion and expulsion of the card.

17. The improvement of claim 15 wherein said sensor provides said control signal when the card is being inserted into the card reader and also when the card is being expelled from the card reader,

said drive circuit being responsive to said control signal
5 in both insertion and expulsion of the card.

18. The improvement of claim 14 in which said predetermined time period is under 500 milliseconds.

19. The improvement of claim 15 in which said predetermined time period is under 500 milliseconds.

20. The improvement of claim 16 in which said predetermined time period is under 500 milliseconds.